

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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THE MEANING OF GERMANY'S ACTS.

Judging Germany by her actions and not by her words—which, the light of the past two years, is fair judgment—Berlin is not striving to avert a declaration of war by the United States.

Germany insists on a course of action which means war unless by a miracle none of her U-boats violate American rights. This course of action is consistent with the outrage of Belgium and with the German doctrine of Weltpolitik—consistent with the theory that international law is to be broken for national advantage.

Germany's detention of Gerard illustrates to a curious degree her obvious plan of action. Berlin knows, of course, that the United States is not detaining von Bernstorff. Even if Germany should expect of the United States no better conduct than she has shown herself, that conduct would not go the length of detaining a high diplomat, for Berlin is adept at observing most niceties of formal relationships, even while deporting Belgians and sinking passenger ships with women and children. Hence Germany is under no illusions regarding von Bernstorff's freedom of movement as soon as the Allies have consented to let him move at sea. So far as the United States is concerned, von Bernstorff could go at any time.

But the detention of Gerard seems to be another step on Uncle Sam's course—another push toward the inevitable declaration of hostilities. It has already been pointed out in these columns that if Germany stops the flow of American provisions and munitions to the Allies, her recent diplomacy will not have been fruitless. A declaration of war by the United States would be followed immediately by at least a temporary tightening of our exports. We would first assure ourselves of ample supply and ample facilities to keep up that supply before continuing the stream to England, France and Russia.

That cessation of our exports is exactly what Germany wants. Germany would like, moreover, to be able to tell her people that the United States is forcing war on the Fatherland. That would help to ease the situation for the German government. Probably Berlin thinks that more trouble would be stirred up by German-Americans in the United States if the declaration comes from our side.

All of which indicates that the leaders at Berlin are in a more menacing situation than their confident words would indicate.

DISGRACEFULLY DIRTY.

"Clean-up Week" begins Monday.

It cannot begin a moment too soon. Seldom if ever in the past five years have Honolulu's streets and alleys been as dirty as today. This applies not only to side streets and back alleys but to such main-traveled thoroughfares as King, Hotel, Beretania and Nuuanu streets.

Has the street cleaning department gone on strike, or merely taken a vacation? The prevalence of dust, inches deep, is absolutely disgraceful. Just how far one may hold the dust nuisance responsible for the prevailing popularity of catarrhal colds is unknown, but there is no question that the nuisance is not only a discomfort, but a menace.

Dusty, weed-choked gutters, filth beaten into powder, stirred up by passing wheels and hanging in the air; rubbish and garbage on main streets, mud whenever the rains come—all of this has no place in the modern city Honolulu aspires to be.

We have the essentials for as beautiful, as pleasing a "Spotless Town" as any on earth. And yet the city government racks along like a broken-down vehicle, and our streets, outside of a very few blocks, look like those of some little old country town dead to civic pride and ambition.

Is it lack of money? Is it lack of efficiency? Is it lack of enterprise? Is it lack of a little "steam" in the street-cleaning service?

What is the matter? Will some city official tell us and say exactly where the responsibility lies?

The case of Col. Ziegler of the National Guard, who presided at the German American Alliance meeting Wednesday night, is now understood to be under inquiry by territorial and army authorities and the correct course, if any, will doubtless be taken. As to the sentiment of the community, there is no question about that. It is that Col. Ziegler's participation in a meeting which advocated action contrary to that marked by the government of the United States was improper, and that as a national guard officer he should steer entirely clear of an organization which, to date, has failed to stand for unadulterated Americanism. If Col. Ziegler is unable to see the impropriety of his action, and if other German-Americans are unable to see the impropriety of the action their organization here took, they have no right to object if the public expresses itself sharply and forcefully.

Perhaps Germany doesn't want to swap Gerard for Bernstorff. If that's the case, we don't blame Berlin for holding the American.

We presume it is the international situation which is responsible now for more delay on the Waikiki reclamation scheme.

"Rapid Transit Now Ready for Kalakaua Avenue," says a headline. So are the rest of us.

WHY DISCARD IT?

"Discard the direct primary" is a popular cry now among Republicans in active politics.

There is no need to discard the law because it has not proved an unqualified and shining success at its very first trials.

The law was passed to correct grave evils—evils which apparently many of our leading Republicans who are also substantial men did not realize. Boss-controlled conventions were getting rather too common, and whether the boss was a shrewd politician or a big businessman didn't make much difference to the "little fellow" who resented having to vote for candidates he had not helped to pick.

The law did away with some evils and brought on others. The "double campaign" is admittedly burdensome both to the poor man—on account of the expense; and the well-to-do man—on account of the time he must take from his business.

This can be corrected and it was largely corrected last fall. The primary campaign need be neither long enough nor expensive enough to be a burden. Those who cannot give the time to going through a short campaign are not likely to have the necessary time for running their public office properly later on.

Another evil complained of is that under the present system there is no clean-cut alignment of parties; that in the primary one party may throw its weight to the weakest candidates of the other party, and thus weaken the other party's ticket for the general election. There is something in this, and states have found the same difficulty. They have also solved it by requiring voters at the primary to call for a party ballot, and conducting the primary by separate party tickets.

What the territory is going through now is what many states have gone through—a period of experimenting with a new law. To discard the law before it has been given a chance is a confession of weakness in applying a method which states have applied successfully.

The average man—that is, he who constitutes the great bulk of the voters—is not making any perceptible kick. But he will make a kick if there is a proposal to revert to the old convention system.

Candidates for any local office have to work harder to land it than under the old system, but why shouldn't they? No man is above getting out and mixing with the voters, getting in touch with their opinions, their wishes, their needs. The convention system, which passed out nominations for which men had done no actual work with the voters, had its merits oftentimes in securing "good men for office," but as a permanent system it did not make for general progress in the electorate. And it was too much of a happy hunting-ground for the bosses.

Uncle Sam's forbearance during this international crisis ought to suit even the most pronounced pacifist. The detention of Ambassador Gerard and the American consuls in Germany is an insult and Germany's excuse for it is a second insult. That the United States government is detaining Ambassador von Bernstorff—as Berlin alleges—is a falsehood which deserves the shorter and uglier name, and in uttering it as well as in her treatment of Gerard Germany is making an international spectacle of herself. However, the United States is not going to war because Germany insists on making herself more ridiculous. It is not probable that Gerard and the consular officials will be long kept from sailing, for Germany has not a vestige of right to hold them. Germany's action is that of the bad little boy in a fit of temper.

Noticeable in front of the Hawaiian Opera House is the announcement of a "genuine refined hula." This would indicate that there are some amusement-purveyors in Honolulu who recognize that a large proportion of the hulas passed out as the real Hawaiian dance are nothing but the sort of suggestive squirming made justly infamous in the Little Egyptian days of the Chicago World's Fair and thereafter. The Hawaiian hula of the olden days more about as much resemblance to the salacious wiggles too often seen here now as grand opera bears to a Charlie Chaplin film.

It appears that tourists here are more concerned over the prospect of war than those on the mainland. Steamers coming down are booked full of travelers who expect to stay for weeks or months.

Now that the supreme court has affirmed the validity of the Webb-Kenyon act, it should be possible for Maine to decide definitely whether she desires to be dry-wet or dry-dry.—Boston Traveler.

London's mistake on the fireman killed aboard the sinking Turino is excusable. He was a negro named George Washington and London naturally jumped to the conclusion he must be an American.

Nobody in Washington had anything to do with that peace leak, but a lot of them are going to be much more careful next time.—Boston Herald.

Coco Solo is not the name of a soda-fountain concoction. It's our new submarine base.

Queenstown is rapidly getting to be the clearing-house for submarine news.

Germany has no hesitation in performing "overt acts" against Norway.

BUSINESSMAN OF DENVER TELLS HOW PROHIBITION HELPS ALL STATE

(Continued from page one)

another friend of mine that there was some satisfaction and pleasure in running a hotel now that the drunks with their attendant vices were put out.

Tourist Business Increases

"Another hotel which threatened to close up if it could not sell liquor, is now drawing plans for doubling its size which would make it include a whole city block. In fact, the tourist business of Denver is tremendously increased since the city went dry, and I know of some men who have moved to our town from wet states because they wanted the advantages which Colorado now offers in raising their families.

"As a matter of fact, every line of business seems to have been helped.

"Many saloon-keepers and liquor men who have gone into other businesses are throwing up their hats for it.

Taxes Now Reduced

"Denver's taxes have been constantly increasing in line with other cities for a number of years, but I got my tax bills a day or two before I left for Honolulu, and the tax rate is considerably reduced. In fact, we are carrying over a large cash balance, while under the old regime we had a deficit.

"One of my friends who has a large drygoods store tells me that his business immediately increased when the saloons were shut up, and that his sales of babies' shoes increased over fifty per cent within ninety days.

Real Estate Helped

"The effect on real estate has been remarkable, too, because not only were the places where liquor was sold quickly rented to legitimate business, thereby increasing the value of the surrounding property, but our real estate dealers report a general improvement.

"I visited our city jail shortly before I left and was surprised to find such a large portion of the jail closed up and empty. The chief of police told me that there were not half as many people there as formerly and that in spite of the fact that they were making a very rigid arrest of every man who showed signs of intoxication, while formerly they were compelled to let those who could get home by themselves go free.

Poverty is Reduced

"I have two friends who look after the poor and unfortunate men of our town. One of them gives meal tickets to those who cannot afford a place to sleep, and two years ago in a single month he gave out something like six hundred free tickets for beds. But in the same month last year, supplying all applicants who needed it, he only found something over one hundred needy ones. When I asked the other friend of mine why he did not ask for money like he used to, to help indigent families, he said that with the coming of dry Denver the kind of poverty was almost unknown.

City and Town Finances Improved

"The firm of which I am a member deals in bonds of municipalities and counties all over the state of Colorado. One of the serious questions was as to where the revenues would come from to pay interest on bonds and other indebtedness. One town came to us two years ago and asked if we would not allow them to default on their securities because they did not have the money to pay interest—and this was a coal-mining town, too. In less than six months after the state went dry not only was their interest paid in full, but they brought in five thousand dollars which they had saved and asked us if we would not try to buy in some improvement bonds not yet due with the surplus money.

Effect on Politics

"The truth is that the elimination of the liquor interest and its interest in politics tends to bring in a so much cleaner type of government that public affairs are managed in a more business-like way.

"I know of two large department stores in Denver that sold a great deal of liquor. One was a drygoods department store and the other a general merchandise store. Both of these stores report a very much increased business without their liquor departments.

"In fact, we are so satisfied in Colorado with our experiment that a few months ago when the liquor interests tried to get the right to sell only beer, the suggestion was overwhelmingly turned down by a larger majority than the original vote.

Good Investment for Hawaii

"If you people on the Islands knew what a good business investment it was to have a dry territory, how much better the quality of labor—how much more money went into regular channels—how business conditions were improved, and what a splendid effect it had on the entire

community, the vote would be almost unanimous for a 'dry' Hawaii. And it is no trick even to enforce the law, because it has been thoroughly enforced in Colorado, and Henry Allen, who was there recently to get up a story for the Saturday Evening Post, says that he knows of no place which is a better example than Denver's dealing with its saloon problem during the first year.

"The fact is, when I think how at one time I opposed a dry Colorado for business reasons, and then see what splendid results are now being obtained, I think my former position was very foolish."

FRENCH BENEFIT PLANS PROGRESS

Plans for the presentation of a high-class entertainment for the benefit of the French Red Cross League are rapidly rounding into shape. The first sale of tickets for the entertainment which will be given at the Bijou theater Friday night, February 16, starts today.

Miss Peggy Center, Honolulu's prima donna, consented to appear. She will sing "The Marseillaise."

Miss Gertrude Hogan, a visitor to Honolulu from Australia, readily offered her services. She has a pleasing voice and will make her first appearance in Honolulu at the entertainment. She in all probability will sing a selection from "Samson and Delilah."

The concert will be held under the patronage of the French and British consuls.

Tickets are on sale at the Bijou theater, Bergstrom Music Company, Honolulu Music Company and the Territorial Messenger Service.

SAN FRANCISCO WANTS NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SHOW IN THAT CITY

San Francisco wants the National Automobile show. A marconigram addressed to Wallace R. Farrington, president of the Honolulu Automobile Club, asks the support of the local organization. The San Francisco National Automobile Show has given its endorsement, as has the Pacific Coast Show. The local club will discuss the proposal at their next meeting.

PERSONALITIES

DR. ST. D. G. WALTERS is one of the returning passengers on the S. S. Wilhelmina, due Tuesday morning.

WILLIAM C. PETERSEN, acting postmaster, and Mrs. Petersen were due to leave for Hilo on the Mauna Kea this afternoon to see the Volcano. They will return on the steamer Tuesday morning.

GEORGE ROENITZ, chief clerk at the commandant's office, Pearl Harbor, who has been visiting the mainland during the past month, will return in the transport Logan, which is due to arrive Tuesday.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—E. W. QUINN, territorial senator: I am more in favor of amending the old laws than making new ones. Just because a law does not answer all the requirements is no reason that an entirely new one should be drawn up. Let us make the old one workable. The new law might be worse than the old one.

—L. W. de VERNON: Those who attended Professor Jagger's lecture at the "Y." last night, will understand just why it is that Ambrose Patterson's marvelous volcano picture is attracting crowds to the window of the Promotion Committee's offices, especially at night when by a cunning arrangement of lights the roaring fires of Kilauea seem to be actually alive on the canvas. That picture has a history, for Patterson painted it entirely from memory and without a single color or detail note. It was his first visit to the volcano and it made a deep impression upon his artist soul. The picture certainly portrays all that he must have felt, and to my mind is far and away the best impressionist work I have yet seen of a most difficult subject. I hope next week to get a scheme worked out by which we can get the distance required for a proper appreciation of this picture. At present spectators should stand half-way across the street to see it really at its best.

FLEMING NOT TO BE CANDIDATE

That John L. Fleming will not be a candidate for supervisor at the primaries, that he is not considering it and will not do so, are unqualified assertions of Fleming himself. He saw the article in the Star-Bulletin Friday that Nuuanu district wanted a member of the board of supervisors and that he was being prominently mentioned. This brought forth the emphatic announcement that he is not in the field.

"It is not that I do not appreciate such an expression of confidence from my friends and neighbors," said Mr. Fleming to the Star-Bulletin. "For I do appreciate it. I have not the time to give the office and this is especially so just now. A member of the board of supervisors should give to the affairs of the city and county much of his time—much more of it than I could possibly give. I have my own business to attend to and the attention which that business demands absolutely precludes my considering service on the board of supervisors."

FOUR THOUSAND COTS HERE FOR GUARDSMEN

Sleeping cots for the entire guard of Hawaii, more than 4000 in number, are arriving now at the armory and are being stowed away in the various company storerooms.

The cots come wrapped in bundles and occupy little space when folded. Drayload after drayload has been delivered in the last two days at the big building.

The lecture on Christian Science in the Opera House Sunday night is to be delivered by an authorized representative of the Christian Science church in Boston. The lecturer, Mr. Clarence W. Chadwick, C. S. R., is from Omaha, Neb., and is now a member of a lectureship board of 20 whose work it is to travel over the world lecturing on Christian Science. The lecture will begin promptly at 8 o'clock. The public is welcome.

AONA RESIGNS AS CLERK OF COURT

Circuit court is to lose A. Kalei Aona, who has been associated with its several departments during the last 14 years.

Aona has announced that he will resign as clerk of the second division within a few days to become chief clerk for the law firm of Smith, Warren & Whitney. His resignation will be tendered to become effective on March 1.

Circuit Judge Whitney's resignation will become effective on February 13 and on that date, or shortly after, he will become associated with W. O. Smith and L. J. Warren in private law practice. E. W. Sutton, now a member of the firm of Smith, Warren & Sutton, leaves the firm the middle of this month to go with the Bishop Trust Co., relieving Willard E. Brown who, however, will retain his associations with the company.

Aona will be clerk of the new firm. During the last nine years he has been clerk in Circuit Judge Whitney's court and for five years prior to that period has held various other positions in circuit court.

Arthur E. Restarick, also a clerk in Judge Whitney's division, will remain in his present duties until the appointment of Judge Whitney's successor. He has not yet made any plans for the future.

Aona has made a brilliant record as court clerk, and also as registrar of the land court and temporary probation officer. His new position will be in the nature of a promotion and Judge Whitney says he is exceedingly well qualified for the work.

NAVAL MILITIA WILL GO ABOARD ST. LOUIS

Lieut.-Cmdr. W. H. Stroud of the territorial naval militia today announced an order for every member of that organization to appear at the Bungalow at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. From there the militia will march to the St. Louis for instruction, spending the morning at practical work on the cruiser.


HONOLULU REAL ESTATE


4 Good Buys

Manoa Home, \$5500
100x150 lot; 6-room new house on street now being improved. Near Manoa Tennis Courts.

Beach Walk Place, \$4200
Modern and convenient home at the beach. 5-room house; garage, servants' quarters, etc. Cool side of street.

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